

Distinguished Service Award from the University of North Carolina in 2005, for his commitment to making preventive health care a top priority. Dr. Purcell's dedication to the health of the children of North Carolina continued after his retirement as a pediatrician, making its way into the halls of the General Assembly where he served as a member of the Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Chairman of the Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity. To honor this commitment, ABC News Correspondent George Stephanopoulos presented him with the Nathan Davis Award, the American Medical Association's highest award for a public office. Most recently, in 2008, his fellow senators and local news correspondents voted him one of the most effective members of the North Carolina Senate.

Senator Purcell and I have been friends for quite some time now, and this has allowed me to experience first-hand his generosity and his commitment to the well-being of the people of our state. As a former educator, I understand the importance of pediatric health and wellness, and their impact on a student's ability to succeed. I sincerely thank Dr. Purcell for his tireless devotion to making our community a better place.

Mr. Speaker, it is with admiration and appreciation that I rise today to speak of the ceaseless and tireless efforts of Senator Purcell to represent the people of Anson, Richmond, Scotland, and Stanly counties, and our state as a whole. Today, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Senator Purcell for his outstanding leadership and achievements, and for a life of selfless devotion to those around him.

**HONORING REAR ADMIRAL JAMES
W. LISANBY (USN RETIRED)**

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize (Ret.) Rear Admiral James W. Lisanby, who passed away on November 14, 2012.

Rear Admiral Lisanby, a native of Caldwell County, Kentucky, served his country and community with great integrity and honor. He rose through the ranks of the United States Navy during his 37 years to become a rear admiral and a chief engineer. He was instrumental in the development of the modern era of shipbuilding at the Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

After spending many years of service abroad and at sea, Rear Admiral Lisanby became the Commander of Naval Ships Engineering Center, his first Flag officer assignment, where he was responsible for the design and engineering of all ships and weapons developed for the U.S. Navy. He finished his stellar Navy career as the Deputy Commander for Acquisition and Logistics in the U.S. Navy's Sea Systems Command in Washington, DC.

Following retirement from the Navy, Rear Admiral Lisanby started his own consulting firm, Naval Services International, Inc., and became the first American elected President of the International Professional Engineering and Naval Architects Society, IPEN. He also

served on numerous boards, including those of the United Services Life Insurance Company and the Sioux Manufacturing Company of Devil's Lake, ND, and he also served as the Chairman of the Board of Technology Financing, Inc., part of the BMT Group of International Companies.

Not only was he successful in serving his country, and in business, but he had a very impressive academic record. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, he earned a Professional Engineers Degree (PE) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an advanced Management Degree from the Harvard Business School (PMD).

Rear Admiral Lisanby and his wife of 61 years, Gladys, retired to Arlington, Virginia and Pascagoula, Mississippi until Hurricane Katrina destroyed their beachfront home. At that time, the Lisanbys returned to Kentucky, and Caldwell County.

After returning to Kentucky, the Lisanbys became very active in the community, particularly in their support of the arts. They became members of the Endowment Circle of the Princeton Art Guild, where its Lisanby Courtyard honors Lisanby's mother, a lifelong artist and arts supporter.

Rear Admiral Lisanby was also an active member of Ogden Memorial United Methodist Church in Princeton, a Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his brother, Charles, two daughters, Elizabeth Ann Lisanby and Dr. Sarah Hollingsworth Lisanby, and their families.

The people of Caldwell County, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and this great Nation were greatly served by Rear Admiral Lisanby, and he will be truly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 17, 2012, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 627, "yea."
On rollcall No. 628, "yea."

**HONORING THE LIFE OF VICTORIA
LEIGH SOTO**

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to join the Stratford and Sandy Hook communities as they remember Victoria Leigh Soto who was so tragically taken from us last Friday. Only 27 years old, Victoria was a first-grade teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School where she lost her life protecting her students. Room 10 lost its teacher and we lost an exceptional young woman.

A lifelong resident of Stratford, Connecticut, Victoria graduated from Stratford High School in 2003 and earned a degree with high honors

in Education and History from Eastern Connecticut State University. She was currently working to complete her Master's Degree at Southern Connecticut State University. She was a student teacher at Brewster Elementary School in Durham, Connecticut and in her fifth year as a first-grade teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Victoria was fulfilling the dream she had had since she was just three years old. Teaching was her passion and it showed. Her students adored her—the many pictures inscribed with "I Love Miss Soto" that adorned her desk a testament to the impact she had on the children she was charged to care for and educate each day.

Victoria was equally as passionate about her family. In one of her Facebook postings she wrote of her life, "In my spare time, I love spending time with my black lab, Roxie. I love spending time with my brothers, my sisters, and cousins." Family and friends have described her as a role model—not only to them but to everyone she met.

As the event at Sandy Hook Elementary School unfolded, Victoria quickly hid her young students in closets and cabinets. When the gunman came into her classroom Victoria told him that her students were not in the class but in the gym. He turned the gun on her and she was lost to us. Her students would later be found by first responders, huddled together in the closets and cabinets. She saved each of their lives while sacrificing her own. Victoria was a hero in every sense of the word.

The tragic event that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School and all of those we lost that day will never be erased from our minds. Though there are no words that can ease her families suffering, I hope that they can take some small comfort in the knowledge that Victoria will always be remembered as a hero. My thoughts and prayers are with her parents, Carlos and Donna, as well as her siblings, Jillian, Carlee, and Carlos Matthew, and extended family as they say goodbye to their angel. Victoria Leigh Soto was an extraordinary young woman and will long serve as an inspiration to us all.

**IN HONOR OF CORPORAL MICHAEL
P. NICHOLSON'S SERVICE TO HIS
COUNTRY**

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of Florida's brightest sons, Corporal Michael, P. Nicholson of The United States Marine Corps, Echo Company. On July 6, 2011 in an IED blast Corporal Nicholson was almost mortally wounded when he lost his legs and part of his left arm and numerous other injuries. His personal decorations include The Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon and numerous other service awards. Michael was 2nd Platoon Mortar Chief and Assistant Patrol Leader. This strong young man from Tampa has been through hell and back and with much more to overcome he has been a shining example to all, and makes you proud to say you're an American. The Tampa Bay community honors his service to our great country. What Michael "Stands For," is magnificent, and few of us will ever reach the